relief assistance to sustain the croplessness and scarcity of drinking water due to the severe drought and if so, the details thereof;

(b) how many districts in that State are declared as drought affected areas and the details of calamity assistance sought therefor; and

(c) whether Government are considering to grant the assistance sought for and if so, the details thereof and whether Government would also consider to waive the interest of agriculture loans to drought affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government of Kerala neither reported drought on account of deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2004 nor submitted any memorandum seeking Central assistance in the wake of any drought for 2004-05. The State Government had, however, submitted a memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 3847 crores for "Revival of Agriculture Sector" in the State which included assistance towards Agriculture Input Subsidy for damage to crops. On the basis of recommendations of a multi-disciplinary team which visited the State, assistance of Rs. 106 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was released to the State towards Agriculture Input Subsidy for damage to crops.

There is no scheme under operation which provides for waiver of interest on agriculture loans. Standing instructions have, however, been issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the Banks for providing relief to farmers affected by natural calamities. These, *inter-alia*, include conversion/ rescheduling of loans in the event of natural calamity for period ranging from 3 to 9 years depending upon the successive crop failure/intensity of damage to crops and conversion of principal as well as interest due on the existing loans.

Pulses cultivation in TN

3876. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project is being implemented for increasing area of cultivation of pulses in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made during 2004-05, district-wise; and

(c) the amount allocated by the Central Government for the project for 2005-06 and the manner in which it is proposed to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize" (ISOPOM) in 14 major pulses growing states including Tamil Nadu, with a view to increase the production and productivity of pulses in the country. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of, Rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/colomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity etc. to encourage farmers to grow pulses. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

The area coverage under pulse crops during 2004-05 in Tamil Nadu as per the 3rd estimate is 5.79 lakh hectare. An amount of Rs. 131,477 lakhs has been utilized for pulses development programmes during 2004-05 under ISOPOM in the various districts of the state. The district-wise financial allocation and achievement made during 2004-05 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Government of India has proposed an allocation of Rs. 1245 lakhs for Tamil Nadu for the year 2005-06 for oilseeds, pulses, oil palm and maize development programmes under ISOPOM. The allocation will be utilized by the state for implementation of the various components of the scheme for increasing production and productivity of these crops in the state.

Statement

Achievements made during 2004-2005 district-wise in Tamil Nadu

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	District Name	Allocation	Achievement
1	2	3	4
1.	Kancheepuram	3.658	3.654
2.	Thiruvallur	4.957	5.216
3.	Cuddalore	5.635	5.623
4.	Villupuram	6.342	6.341
5.	Vellore	6.102	6.105
6.	Thiruvannamalai	4.008	3.945
7.	Salem	6.136	6.101
8.	Dhamapun	6.261	6.263
9.	Namakkal	5.470	5.468
10.	Coimbatore	6.062	6.074
11.	Erode	6.43	6.271
12.	Tiruchirapalli	5.132	5.125
13.	Permabalur	1.783	1.796
14.	Kalui	2.403	2.402
15.	Pudukkottai	5.327	5.328
16.	Thanjavur	5.987	4.872
17.	Nagapattinam	6.007	3.985
18.	Thiruvarur	5.765	5.930
19.	Madurai	3.938	3.929
20.	Theni	3.724	3.722

1	2	3	4
21.	Dindigul	5.953	5.952
22.	Ramanatha-puram	1.569	1.570
23.	Sivaganga	1.659	1.644
24.	Virudhunagar	4.213	4.317
25.	Tirunelveli	4.467	4.797
26.	Thoothukudi	4.192	4.196
27.	Kanyakumari	1.542	1.626
	Staff	9.000	7.225
	Total:	**133.330**	**131.477**

Oilseeds production in TN

3877. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance is being provided by the Central Government for increasing oil seeds production in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made thereon;

(c) whether all the districts of the State are covered under the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize" (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds growing states including Tamil Nadu, with a view to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds in the country. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation seeds, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant Protection